| 1 | 2 |
|---|---|
| (2) Officers with pay of Rs. 7300/- and above | One seat in Executive class (on payment of one-third of difference of fare between Executive class and II AC of Rajdhani) or two seats in Chair Car. |
| (3) Officers with pay Rs. 4500/- and above | Two seats in Chair Car. |
| (4) Officers with pay below Rs. 4500/- | Two Seats in Chair Car. |
| (5) First Class Pass holders. | Two seats in Chair Car. |

(c) Does not arise.

*[Translation]*

**Private Plantation**

5030. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH:
SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the policy of the Government in regard to the private plantation;

(b) whether the private parties promoting the plantation are entitled to fell the trees on their maturity without attracting the Indian Forest Act, 1927;

(c) whether the private individuals are given any assistance for afforestation to promote the environmental forests; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) The National Forest Policy, 1988 envisages to encourage the planting of trees on unutilised lands under private ownership. Emphasis has been given in policy to facilitate and motivate individuals to undertake tree farming and grow fodder plants, grasses and legumes on their own land. The Policy stipulates that farmers, particularly small and marginal farmers would be encouraged to grow on marginal/degraded lands available with them, wood species required for industries.

(b) National Forest Policy, 1988 emphasises for appropriate regulation to govern the felling of trees on private holdings. The private parties are entitled to fell trees from the plantation on their own land on maturity subject to the provisions of any rule or amendment under Section 35 of Indian Forest Act, 1927 or State Forest Acts or any other relevant Act under implementation in a particular State.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The proposals for financial assistance under the Grants-in Aid Scheme of the National afforestation and Ec-Development Board is entertained from voluntary agencies and non-governmental organisations of the following categories:

— Registered Non-profit organisations;

— Registered Societies, Cooperatives, Companies or Trust; and

— Recognised Schools, Colleges and Universities.

In very exceptional cases, one time non-recurring grant may be given to individuals. So far, no financial assistance has been given to any individual for this purpose.

*[English]*

**Small Farmer Agri-Business Consortium**

5031. SHRI D.P. YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have constituted small Farmers Agri-business Consortium;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the benefits to be accrued to the farmers in Uttar Pradesh during 1995-96 as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Small Farmers' Agri-Business Consortium was set up in 1992-93 and registered as a Society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 on the 18th January, 1994, as an autonomous independent entity funded by RBI, NABARD and IDBI. The SFAC is intended to be a catalytic/promotional organisation aiming at bringing about linkages between production, processing and marketing so that farmers are enabled to derive maximum economic benefit from their efforts. Twelve districts have been identified for implementation of projects in various States. Detailed studies were commissioned with UNDP Assistance under the auspices of M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, Madras for preparing projects for these districts. The Central SFAC would play a catalytic role and provide financial support for project formulation, training etc. The funding of the project in the States is to be arranged through financial institutions like NABARD etc. by State Implementing agencies.

(c) Pithoragarh District in Uttar Pradesh has been selected for implementation of the project. The Government of U.P have nominated the Secretary, Uttarakhand Vikas Vibhag, Lucknow as the Nodal Officer for implementing the project. The project is yet to be implemented.

*[Translation]*

**Halt at Ganj Basoda**

5032. SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state: